

Teachers' Qualifications



The policy guidelines for a diversified education, the fostering of creativity and a lively teaching style are implemented primarily through teacher training.

Teacher Training Education

Teacher training education in Taiwan traditionally falls into two categories. The first type is the normal college, preparing teachers for primary schools and kindergartens. The second type is the normal university, preparing teachers for middle schools. Both types of institute accept senior high school graduates for a four-year education. In addition, some other universities also offer a teacher training programme to prepare teachers for primary and middle schools. Graduate courses (especially for doctorate level) are the main training ground for teachers of colleges and universities.

"The Teacher Education Law" revised and released in 1994, allowed all public and private universities to take part in teacher training. In addition, some normal colleges have already begun training teachers for primary schools.

In order to meet the demands of a more diversified society, increased numbers of special education teachers are needed.

Tuition and fees for teacher training education programmes are basically paid by the trainees themselves. However, full or partial financial assistance is available for some students.

Full programmes of teacher training include common courses, discipline courses, education specialisation courses and a half-year of teaching practicum. Those who complete the programme obtain a certificate. They must also pass a qualification exam set by the MOE to qualify finally as a teacher.

Chinese Language Teaching

To deal with the surplus of teachers and in view of the worldwide popularity of the Chinese language, the MOE offers subsidies for domestic universities to establish post-graduate programmes in Chinese language teaching. To date, about ten universities in Taiwan have Chinese language teaching departments. Eight of those universities have just started offering the programmes within the past two years.